

City of Newport Beach
Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 7, 2019

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Crystal Cove Conference Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, Councilmember Jeff Herdman.

2. Welcome/Self Introductions

Committee Members present:

Jeff Herdman, Chair

Councilmember "Duffy" Duffield, Vice Chair (absent)

Tom Houston

Dennis Baker

Carl Cassidy

Richard McNeil

Louis Denger

Fred Galluccio

George Robertson

Guests present:

Hoiyin Ip, Sierra Club

Ian Swift, IRWD

Kristen Davis, UC Irvine

Adam Martinez, UC Irvine

Chase Warmington, UC Irvine

Roger Yount, Little Balboa Island Homeowners Association

Jim Mosher, Resident

Nancy Gardner, Orange Coast River Park

Staff present:

Bob Stein, Assistant City Engineer

John Kappeler, Senior Engineer

Mark Vukojevic, Utilities Director

Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant

Matt Dingwall, Recreation & Senior Services

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Review and approval of minutes

Committee Member George Robertson moved to approve the minutes; Richard McNeil seconded; motion approved unanimously.

5. Current Business

- (a) 2017/18 Committee Goals/Objectives (John Kappeler/Bob Stein) (10 min) Review and status update on the committee's 2017/18 goals and objectives.

Assistant City Engineer Bob Stein presented an update on the Newport Beach Trash Wheel and Phase 1 of the Big Canyon Park; commended the Committee for its past support and announced Phase 1 received national recognition by the American Council of Engineering Companies. He addressed Phase 2 noting it should start in the fall, pending funding, and reported construction funding is expected in two or three months. Mr. Stein reported the design is two-thirds complete and staff should be able to advertise the project in July for solicitation of construction bids.

In response to an inquiry by Committee Member Houston regarding utilizing publicity for seeking backing for the project, Mr. Stein felt the City may be able to do a better job and Committee Member Houston referenced a recent article in a local newspaper.

Mr. Stein addressed the Trash Wheel and a \$1.7 million grant awarded to the City and mentioned other cities have contacted staff for information on grants available and applying for them. He presented the revised site plan concept and discussed getting the dumpster to the landing area on flood-control property with minimal disturbance. In terms of a fixed rail system, the idea is to place the dumpster on a sled, on a raised platform from elevation 8' to elevation 10' and will include a modified conveyor belt and other changes in the design. Committee Member Galluccio asked about the possibility of making it 10' by 10' and Mr. Stein stated it was possible, pending the final design. Mr. Stein discussed Marine Railway Technology that could be run by solar power and noted the project is a feasible project.

In response to Committee Member Baker's question regarding the cable, Mr. Stein explained the truck wench could be used for the entire project. Committee Member Baker suggested staff may want information regarding the maximum length of the cables on trucks.

Mr. Stein continued addressing trash collection and stated a channelized system is better for moving the trash into the conveyor area. Committee Member Cassidy added it would be the least nuisance viewing and not in the Marine protected area. Mr. Stein discussed next steps and reported theoretically, construction could begin in early 2020.

Discussion followed regarding flood-control concerns, expected challenges, benefits in terms of water quality, and the need to increase awareness relative to the amount of trash coming from San Diego Creek. It was noted Patagonia has stepped up with a donation of \$10,000 and the Mercedes Benz dealership has indicated they are interested in sponsorship.

Committee Member Baker reminded everyone this is a temporary solution and suggested at some point decommissioning or selling it to someone else.

Chair Herdman noted the need to run a naming contest and a budget for promotion. Committee Member Houston suggested using images of the prior El Niño flooding and considering the cost of cleaning the Delhi Channel.

There was no further action taken on this item.

- (b) Public Education Sub-committee (Fred Galluccio/Hoiyin Ip) (10 min) Update from the Public Education Sub-committee, including a discussion on special event permits, signage and restaurant outreach.

Hoiyin Ip, Sierra Club, presented a report and displayed a PowerPoint presentation regarding trash reduction and capture; announced meetings of the Newport Beach Watershed Executive scheduled for March 20th and an Orange County Trash and Debris Taskforce meeting on March 21st. She referenced comments that it is economical to let trash flow downstream; spoke about single-use plastics having better alternatives, affordable processes, and suggested the City have inserts in water bills to ensure information is distributed to all City residents and have handouts for restaurants to distribute to customers. In term of special events, she reported speaking with people from San Diego to Sacramento to learn their best practices; noted events vary in size and demographics and reported the Committee had previously suggested a \$50 fee reduction for organizations that opt to conduct their events as single-use plastic “free” but questioned how the City could prevent “cheating.”

Chair Herdman inquired whether the Committee would like to include this on a future agenda for study, where likely, a subcommittee would be formed to develop specific recommendations for the City Council’s consideration.

Bob Stein inquired whether there are action items the Committee could approve without City Council approval. Committee Member Baker noted that if there was budget for signage, the matter would not need to go to the City Council.

Nancy Gardner commented on how the City should always be doing more and hoped the item will go to the City Council for approval.

In response to Committee Member Galluccio's question regarding the City Councils' position on the matter, it was reported that Committee Member Baker suggested each Committee Member speak with their individual Council Members to determine where they stand on the issue. Chair Herdman suggested proceeding ahead with magnetic signage and pamphlet to adopt.

A motion was made by Committee Member Baker, and seconded by Chair Herdman, to direct staff to implement the magnetic signs and handouts to restaurant in the City and return with a report at the next Committee meeting. The motion carried, unanimously.

Matt Dingwall, Recreation & Senior Services, discussed special events and ideas for providing incentives for single-use plastic free events. He indicated it could be part of the application process and could easily be added to the application checklist.

John Kappeler suggested having a line item on the application indicating they are interested in an environmentally-friendly event. Discussion followed regarding offering some type of incentive for those types of events, ensuring conformance during the event, and the need to give the issue further consideration and study.

Mr. Stein suggested offering a potential refund after an event once compliance has been proven.

Chair Herdman suggested implementing the magnetic signs and flyers to restaurants and return in six months for an evaluation of a larger program. He asked that Phase 2 be included in the committee's next agenda for consideration.

There was no further action taken on this item.

(c) UCI Oceans Cooperative Project (George Robertson) (15 min) Presentation on phase 1 of the UCI Oceans Cooperative Project

It was noted UCI is setting up another "Improving Water Quality" event on October 18, 2019, at the Beckman Center at UCI to discuss smart drilling, coastal resilience, and planning for the future.

Kristen Davis, UCI, provided a report addressing the UCI Oceans Cooperative Project, how the project's objectives overlap well with the City's research interests, and the importance of working together to study the Bay. The issues she discussed during her presentation included marine debris, trash and coastal waters, nutrient budgets within Newport Bay, contaminant transport within Newport Bay and adjacent coastal areas, influence of estuary outflow on coastal MPA and seagrass habitats within Newport Bay. She added the plan is to build a flexible platform and model to quantify and understand the exchange of water, nutrients and oxygen in Newport Bay and adjacent ocean which would provide for linking science and local management. The project is a collaboration between City of Newport Beach, SCCWRP, OCSD, UCI and UCSD and led to amazing student experiences including Ridge2Reef students and those in a Multidisciplinary Design program. Ms. Davis discussed a water sample cruise and a wave power profiler and provided details of the Newport Bay Circulation Study conducted in February and March 2018. She added the experiment involved four hydrographic moorings measuring currents, temperature, oxygen and salinity pressure and noted weekly water sampling cruises from the coast, inland along the Thalweg of the estuary measuring phosphate, nitrate, chlorophyll-a, and plankton diversity. Ms. Davis addressed the various conditions experienced and measured including a snapshot plot of a salinity graph and wet and dry weather events. She reported an engineering project team studied where outflow from the bay is going and addressed next steps and the need for external funding for a model to move onto the next phase. She indicated there are several sources of funding including Sea Grant.

Chair Herdman reported Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris has been reaching out to cities in her district for ideas and suggested Ms. Davis contact her. In response to Chair Herdman's question regarding the desired end product, Ms. Davis reported the goal is for a numerical model to predict flow and understand pollutants such as the transport of copper.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of understanding the flow of water through development of a model, measuring flow in all directions, creating animations with the data, the importance of the right information in the model to get accurate results and the importance of connecting with local stakeholders. It was noted the County is a major stockholder in the harbor.

There was no further action taken on this item.

- (d) City of Newport Beach Trash Reduction Program (Richard McNeil/John Kappeler) (10 min)
Update on the status of the City's trash reduction program, including a discussion on the Seabin Project.

Committee Member McNeil presented an update on the Newport Beach Trash Reduction program and addressed the legal framework behind trash provisions as well as requirements at the Federal, State and local levels and adoption of trash provisions. He reported the most feasible program for the City is a hybrid approach and discussed the mandate including a requirement to look at five areas of the city, including residential, commercial, industrial, zone mass use and bus stops. The City is setting itself up to be in compliance and maximize public funding. The State provided a list of approved catch basins and the City needs 1,200 to be in compliance.

Discussion followed regarding the City's previous practices, the cost and longevity of stainless steel screens, connector pipe screens, calculating maintenance costs, challenges with the peninsula and islands, taking credit for trash skimmers and sea bins, applying for grant funding for cleaver buoys, and physical restrictions.

Chair Herdman suggested checking with the Harbor Division for ideas.

It was noted a grant application will be submitted requesting \$300,000 for OCTA funding for connector pipe screens.

A motion was made by Committee Member McNeil, and seconded by Committee Member Baker, to authorize the City to apply for OCTA funding via resolution to Council for connector pipe screens, additional trash skimmers and sea events. The motion carried, unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding considering the high costs of maintenance, budgeting costs, projected lifespan and warranties.

Nancy Gardner reported all coastal cities are required to comply and suggested making the argument this may not be the best way to spend the money as it is for trash removal rather than reduction.

There was no further action taken on this item.

- (e) Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee Field Trip(s) (Jeff Herdman/John Kappeler) (10 min)
Committee member discussion for any field trips in 2019.

Senior Engineer Kappeler presented the report addressing past field trips taken by the Committee and asked whether members would be interested in doing so.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of a boat tour of the Delhi Channel, considering applying for a grant for the Santa Isabella Channel and the possibility of scheduling a field trip to that area as well.

Chair Herdman asked Committee Members to think about where they would like to go and direct ideas to him or Mr. Kappeler.

There was no further action taken on this item.

6. On-going business

a) Bay and Ocean Bacteriological Test Results (John Kappeler) (15 min) Review and discussion of recent water quality test results within Newport Bay and along the ocean shoreline.

Senior Engineer Kappeler reported staff does weekly water quality testing using three indicators, standards and numbers. He added the first page shows the lower bay and reported staff is putting in the diversions now at the Newport Boulevard Bridge and follow-up samples were clean. Mr. Kappeler stated the second page shows the upper bay, included North Star Beach and reported follow-up samples were clean. He pointed out the last page is from the sanitation district and that follow-up samples from there were clean as well.

Discussion followed regarding the maximum levels of pollutants in determining when to put up "No Swimming" signs, and the process for posting sewage spills.

7. Committee announcements or matters which members would like placed on a future agenda for discussion, action or report (Non-Discussion Item) (10 min)

- a) 3rd Annual Newport Harbor Underwater Cleanup (March 2019)
- b) OCTA Tier 1 Grant Program (March 2019)
- c) Grant Program(s) Presentation (April 2019)
- d) City of Newport Beach Sustainability Plan (Spring 2019)
- e) Newport Harbor Vessel Pumpout Program (Spring 2019)
- f) Public Outreach to Hull Cleaning Divers (Spring 2019)
- g) Vessel greywater discharge limitations (Spring 2019)
- h) Shellfish monitoring

8. Public comments on non-agenda items (10 min)

Committee Member Baker presented Hoiyin Ip with a wrapped bamboo straw. He knew she would appreciate it.

Staff member Mark Vukojevic introduced Ian Swift, from IRWD and gave an update on an agreement between the City and IRWD of emergency discharges. He addressed Sand Canyon Reservoir and noted it will probably spill over this season and it does so every four or five years. He reviewed a list of what IRWD will do to minimize recycle water and next steps. He reported

the plan has not yet been finalized but the draft plan specifies nitrogen or phosphorus loads will be measured off the average of the last twelve months.

Discussion followed regarding the transfer pipe, the desire of the OCWD for sign-off by an engineering consultant, moving forward with the project, letting Sand Canyon go over the spillway, potential start of construction, rainfall to date in the area, percentage of recycled water, historical discharge from Sand Canyon to back bay, expected rainfall next year, the output of the treatment plant and shellfish sampling.

It was noted this Saturday, at 9:00 AM, Help your Harbor and other organizations will be participating in cleaning up the Back Bay and residents were encouraged to volunteer.

Jim Mosher addressed bus stops noting the City has a number of bus stops that have no trash receptacles and spoke in support of placing trash receptacles in bus stops. He asked whether the City would receive credit or doing so. In response Nancy Gardner noted the reason the trash receptacles were removed.

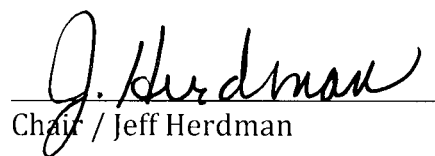
There was no further action taken on this item.

9. Set next meeting date (5 min)

The next meeting date was set for March 7th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Crystal Cove Conference Room, located at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 PM.


Chair / Jeff Herdman